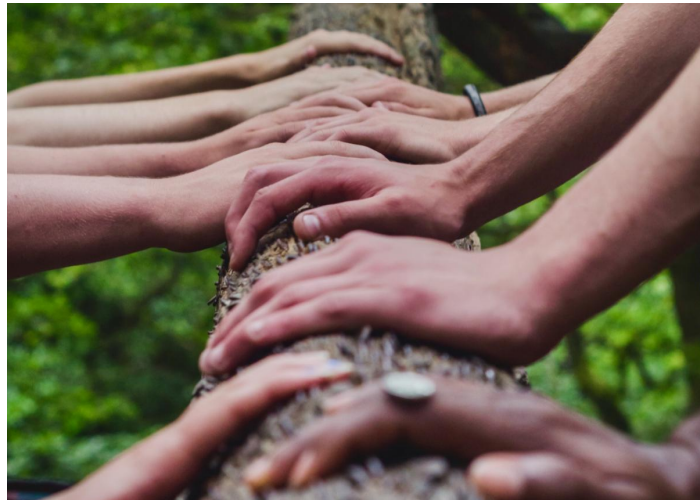




## We are transforming the food system: \$1.3 billion in the CA budget!

Greetings!

It takes a movement to transform the food system and ours leaped forward this year. ROC and our [AB 125 coalition partners](#) worked closely with Assembly Ag Committee Chair, [Robert Rivas](#) (Salinas) to drive home a historic budget request. The list of programs that will be funded by the \$1.3 billion in the 2021-22 budget is long. It includes climate smart agriculture programs like [Healthy Soils](#), Biologically Integrated Farming Systems, pollinator habitat, organic transition (\$219 million); farmworker housing and safety projects (\$165 million); healthy food access infrastructure (\$372 million); food waste composting (\$130 million); regional food system infrastructure (\$35 million) and so much more.



Two ROC-spawned programs got special attention from our long-time food justice policy champion, Assembly Budget Committee Chair [Phil Ting](#) (San Francisco). He successfully requested \$40 million to be disbursed over two years with funds evenly divided between the [Healthy Refrigeration](#) and the [California Nutrition Incentives](#) grant programs. The first program aids corner stores, food pantries and foodbanks to acquire coolers and technical assistance. With such support they can offer a variety of fresh, local food products. The second program provides farmers markets and grocers with match-money that [CalFresh](#) recipients use to double their purchase of fresh produce. The \$20 million in nutrition incentives from California will support acquisition of up to \$20 million in matching funds from the [USDA GusNIP program](#). ROC helped create GusNIP in the 2014 Farm Bill. [READ MORE](#)

# California Meat Processing Progress: Time for Change!



In another key accomplishment this year, ROC worked with [UC Davis Food Systems Lab](#) and a coalition of stakeholders, co-led by our ally [CCOF](#), to produce [this white paper](#) related to the challenges and opportunities in the small- and mid-scale supply chain for high quality, healthy meat and poultry.

Our report is out and having

impact already! See my [Opinion Editorial](#) in the Sacramento Bee co-authored with chef-ally Patrick Mulvaney ([Mulvaney's B&L](#)). And here is what [UC Davis](#) and [Public Health Institute](#) have said about the white paper. In both the paper and editorial, we make specific recommendations that include regulatory changes, public and private investments. One example is our call for CDFA and legislator support for [AB 888](#), authored by [Marc Levine](#) (San Rafael). Embraced by CDFA, the bill will allow small-scale producers to slaughter more sheep, goats and hogs on their farms. This is less stressful on the animals and less expensive for the farmer. The Legislature passed the bill and sent it to the Governor for signature. [READ MORE](#)

*Photo credit: Walter Bieck Pixabay*

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## Please Donate

You can help build our momentum! Our team simply cannot do it without contributions. Please donate and see how far we can go with your support. Thank you!

*Image credit: Amber Avalona, Pixabay*



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Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Reid Dimock".

Michael Reid Dimock

President  
Roots of Change  
A Program of the Public Health Institute

# Roots of Change



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